

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 IO-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7443

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USDOCOSOUTH

USEUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1226

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MASS, CY, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH CYPRIOT M-72' S

REF: NICOSIA 1187; ANKARA 3973

1. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN M-72 AFFAIR, AS RECOUNTED BY UNSYG SPECIAL REP OSORIO- TAFALL AND UNFICYP CHIEF OF STAFF HENN, ARE EVEN MORE BAFFLING THAN THOSE EARLIER REPORTED.

2. FEW DAYS AGO, TCPA INFORMED UNFICYP IT WISHED TO PLACE IN STORAGE UNDER TWO- KEY ARRANGEMENT TEN OF 20 ROCKETS THAT UNFICYP IN ITS EARLIER INSPECTION HAD FOUND MISSING FROM LAUNCHERS. UNFICYP IS AT LOSS TO UNDERSTAND WHY ONLY HALF THE RECOCKETS ARE BEING RETURNED, UNLESS DECISION REFLECTS SOME SORT OF TURKISH MILITARY/ DIPLOMATIC
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COMPROMISE. TCPA STORY IS THAT TEN ROCKETS WERE FIRED IN PRACTICE. UNFICYP BELIEVES THIS IS UNTRUE SINCE (AS ANKARA POINTS OUT) LAUNCHERS WOULD HAVE BEEN DAMAGED IN FIRING, AND UN COULD FIND NO DAMAGE WHATEVER IN THOROUGH INSPECTION MAY 22

3. UNFICYP HAS LET TURKS KNOW IT CONSIDERS THEIR STORY IMPROBABLY. AT SAME TIME, HENN SAID HE DOUBTED UNFICYP'S SKEPTICISM WOULD BE REFLECTED IN SYG REPORT TO SC SINCE IT JUST CONCEIVABLE LAUNCHERS HAD BEEN REPAIRED AS TURK CYPRIOTS CLAIM. FACTS WILL OF COURSE BE FULLY COVERED IN REPORT.

4. TURK CYPRIOT PRESS HAS RECENTLY ACCUSED GOVT OF HAVING MADE OPERATIVE ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS STORED UNDER UN AGREEMENT IN ATHALLASSA AND OF USING THEM FOR TRAINING. HENN SAID UNFICYP HAD NO EVIDENCE TO CORROBORATE CHARGES. LIKE US, HE ASSUMES TURK CYPRIOTS HAVE TAKEN OFFENSIVE AS BEST DEFENSE IN M-72 AFFAIR.

5. APPRECIATE ANKARA'S WILLINGNESS WEIGHT IN WITH GOT, BUT UNFICYP HAS NOT YET ASKED OUR HELP, AND BELIEVE IT BETTER FOR PRESENT TO LET UN ATTEMPT STRAIGHTEN MATTER OUR WITH TCPA.
POPPER

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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